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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For Week Ending  
1 December 1948

Vol. III No.47

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## NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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## TURKEY

Lavrishchev's harangue: The Soviet Ambassador to Turkey introduced a new note in diplomacy at a recent Soviet Embassy reception when, within full earshot of several newspapermen and other guests, he delivered a long, intemperate tirade to the Turkish Prime Minister and another Cabinet officer in which he spoke derisively of US friendship for Turkey and called upon his auditors to recognize the geo-political realities and seek a rapprochement with the USSR. It is not clear whether Ambassador Lavrishchev, who had just returned from Moscow, was as drunk as he appeared or was using this technique to record publicly the USSR's dissatisfaction with the Turks. At any rate, his harangue is unlikely to ruffle either the officials who had to listen to him or the larger Turkish audience he may have been seeking to influence.

## IRAQ

Haifa pipeline negotiations begin: The French-inspired attempt to get Iraq's much-needed crude oil flowing again to Europe via the Kirkuk-Haifa pipeline has now reached the negotiation stage. Aware that Iraq would violently oppose Israel's obtaining Iraqi oil, the French and British representatives in Baghdad have proposed that Iraq authorize the passage through the pipeline of crude oil for export only; a US representative later expressed US support for the plan to the Iraqi Government. Thus far the discussions have been inconclusive; the Iraqi Prime Minister was reportedly moderately favorable toward the proposition, but the Iraqi Foreign Minister remained cool. If a favorable response can be elicited from Iraq, similar negotiations must then be undertaken with Israel. Prime Minister Ben-Gurion has informally indicated that Israel might agree to the exporting of all crude oil pumped through to Haifa for the first three months after the pipeline was re-opened, with the understanding that the question of allocating shipments on a historical basis would then be raised.

## IRAN

Saed Government faces difficulties: The position of Iran's new Prime Minister, Mohammad Saed, appears to be precarious. Although he has drawn up a legislative program designed to satisfy both progressive and ultra-nationalist sentiments, he is handicapped by the fact that:

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(1) he did not succeed to the premiership in the usual way by majority vote of the Majlis, but was put into office by agreement of certain factional leaders; (2) he has selected a mediocre cabinet, appointing several persons unpopular in the Majlis and failing to include any followers of the influential Qavam; and (3) Iran is suffering from a bread shortage which has caused riots in various parts of the country. Even if Saed is able to surmount these difficulties and (as is likely) obtains a vote of confidence in the Majlis, his tenure of office will remain uncertain owing to the customary harassments of the Majlis and the distracting effect of Soviet threats and pressure.

#### INDIA-PAKISTAN

Kashmir deadlock continues: India and Pakistan remain at loggerheads over Kashmir, although the UN Security Council and the Kashmir Commission have again asked both dominions to refrain from any activities which might aggravate the situation while the two UN bodies continue their efforts to solve the dispute. The Commission's report, with its implied criticism of Pakistan, seems to have strengthened India's determination to go ahead with the quiet consolidation of its military advantage in Kashmir. Pakistan, while continuing its protestations over Indian aggressions, is adding an irritant to the current conflict by asking the Security Council to investigate the Hyderabad case, which the SC retains on its agenda as unfinished business. Pakistan is also preparing, for presentation to the International Court of Justice, accusations against India over the utilization and regulation of the headwaters of the rivers in the Punjab.

The situation in Hyderabad: Pakistan's recent accusations that India has dropped an "iron curtain" around Hyderabad to conceal a reign of "stealing, looting, rape, arson, and murder" are not borne out by less interested observers. While some pillaging and murder took place when Indian troops invaded Hyderabad in mid-September, military discipline was soon restored and has been effectively maintained ever since. Indian administrators and civil servants have been installed to help conduct civil affairs, and on the surface, normal conditions have been restored in business and every day life. The task of restoring stability to Hyderabad, however, is still far from complete. Although the extremist Razakar element has apparently been effectively disarmed, militant Communists in the southeastern part of the state are still engaging the attention of five Indian Army battalions, or roughly 4,000 men. Moreover, the absence of a politically experienced Hindu group within the state is likely to create difficulties when India implements its plans for formally admitting Hyderabad to the Dominion of India under a civil administration of its own.

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## NOTED IN BRIEF

A threatened rupture between Turkey and Bulgaria has been averted by Bulgaria's reported decision to suspend the sentence of a Turkish officer condemned to death for alleged espionage. The Turks firmly warned Bulgaria that they would break off diplomatic relations if the officer were executed. . . . . Recent reports from Jewish sources that oil has been found in the Negeb are apparently without Foundation inasmuch as no evidence exists of drilling tests having been carried out in that part of Palestine. The tendency of both Arabs and Jews to give undue consideration to oil in their evaluation of the Negeb represents an effort to obscure the political issues involved in disposing of the area. . . . . Israel has now set 25 January as the date for general elections, having previously postponed the voting date from November to December. The additional delay may be sufficient for the PGI to consolidate its strength within Israel and thus to assure continuance in office of the Ben-Gurion (Mapai-dominated) government. . . . . High government officials in Egypt are continuing their behind-the-scenes efforts to reopen the Anglo-Egyptian treaty talks. . . . . The first elections for the Sudanese Legislative Assembly were held last week. The Umma (the party willing to accept a period of British control in order to obtain ultimate independence for the Sudan) won all the seats because the pro-Egyptian party boycotted the elections and attempted to keep people away from the polls. The arrest of many pro-Egyptians when violence occurred in several Sudanese localities, along with the one-sided election returns has already provided the Egyptian press and radio with a strong anti-British theme. . . . . The USSR wasted little time negotiating with Iran for the release of Soviet officers captured by Iranian soldiers in the disputed Atrak River area ten days ago. When the Soviet border commander's request for the release of the internees was refused, the Soviets staged a demonstration before the Iranian border outpost (at Naft Jeh) involving an infantry battalion and ten tanks and forced the release of the officers. . . . . Iran's lack of an air-warning system and adequate AA guns has prevented effective countermeasures against aircraft sighted recently over Iran and variously described as "mystery" planes or Red Army planes. Twice within the past week a single aircraft has flown over Tehran at an altitude of some 13,000 feet, and two planes are reported to have crossed the Iranian border at Julfa at high altitude on 21 November and to have flown over Khoi and Tabriz. . . . . Soviet hints that the USSR might cease to block Ceylon's entry into the UN by means of the veto are probably linked with the USSR's recent attempts to buy Ceylonese rubber.

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